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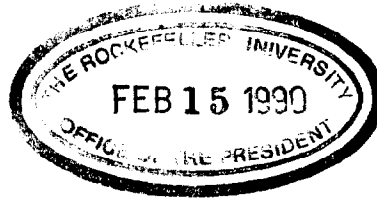
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Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Thank you for the Bandwell review and Craighead reference. I am enclosing a reprint of our paper on asbestos transfection. Did you see the "editorial" by Brooke Mossman et al. in the Science of Jan 19? (Science 247, 244-301). It has some seriously misleading statements and implicit assumptions about Chrysotile, and I am drafting a response letter now.

We are currently involved in experiments to directly demonstrate insertional mutagenesis mediated by asbestos in rat mesothelium in vivo. We use a PCR method to amplify up potential insertion sites. The experiments are long ones, and results encouraging

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but not finished yet. We are also looking at the possibility that the p53 tumor suppressor gene is altered (insertional mutagenesis?) in the induction of mesothelioma. We shall keep you apprised.

Sincerely,

RC

(Johnson)